

The Right Thing The Wrong Way, Part 3 - Romans 10:16-21 – October 7th, 2012

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled; "The Right Thing The Wrong Way," and with it we'll complete Romans chapter ten.
- The Apostle Paul has been arguing his case concerning the Jews going about the right thing namely, salvation but it was in the wrong way.
- By way of both introduction and review, I need to quickly go through what we've seen here-to-fore, so as to set the stage for today's study.

1. Zeal without Knowledge (Verses 1-2)

- Here, Paul sort of commends them for their zeal for God, however, their problem is, its not based on their knowledge of the Word of God.

2. Morality without Righteousness (Verse 3)

- Once again, true to form, Paul hits them head on, for seeking a morality of their own, absent the righteousness that comes only from God.

3. Law without Faith (Verses 4-7)

- Paul will drive it home, so-to-speak, by communicating to them that this righteousness only comes vis-à-vis faith in Christ, and not the law.

4. Believing without Confessing (Verses 8-10)

- Here, Paul delineates between believing and confessing, in that just because you believe does not necessarily mean that you agree with it.

5. Jews without Gentiles (Verses 11-13)

- In what is arguably the biggest obstacle that Paul faces, he knocks them off the pedestal of their Jewish superiority, and Gentile inferiority.

6. Preaching without Hearing (Verses 14-15)

- Paul asks four rhetorical questions as to how they can call on the one they've not believed when not hearing from someone sent to preach.

7. Faith without Hearing (Verses 16-17)

(16) But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" (17) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

-v16 Paul says not all the Israelites accepted the good news they heard then he quotes Isaiah saying; 'Lord who has believed our message.'

-v17 He goes on to say how that consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

- To me, this is the key, by that I mean, Paul gives us that which unlocks the door of faith, and in so doing opens the way for faith to come in.

- It's for this reason that some believe that in Romans chapter nine through eleven Paul lets us in on his teaching when in the Synagogues.

- In the book of Acts, we read repeatedly where Paul would reason with the Jews from their Hebrew scriptures, which is why he quotes it.

- In other words, we sort of have here a recording of the sermons Paul preached while in those synagogues on all his missionary journey's.

Acts 17:17 NIV So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 18:4 NIV Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:19 NIV They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Acts 19:8 NIV Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

- This is the why behind the what, in that, Paul reasoned with them arguing persuasively with them, why, faith comes by hearing God's Word.

- Also, notice what's conspicuously absent from the narrative as it relates to what Paul says concerning how it is that faith will actually come.

- He says faith comes from hearing, and that will come by the hearing of the Word of God. It doesn't come by getting worked up about God.

- Let me explain, there is a profound difference between a manufactured faith that has to be hyped up, and a genuine faith from God's Word.

8. Hearing without Understanding (Verses 18-19)

(18) But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (19) Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."

-v18 Paul asks; did they not hear, then answers of course they did, their voice went out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

-v19 Paul again asks, did they not understand then quotes Deuteronomy 32:21 saying, God would use other nations to make Israel jealous

- This is one of the most fascinating truths I've personally ever witnessed in my own life as an Arab, making me the quintessential Gentile.

- Let me explain, whenever I show my love for the Jewish people, and or show my support for the Jewish people, it really jams their gears.

- The reason being is, they can't understand how it is that I, as a Gentile and an Arab no less, can have a saving relationship with their God.

- This is why Paul says that God will make the Jews envious, or Jealous, if you prefer, even angry, as it were, by these nations of Gentiles.

9. Finding without Seeking (Verses 20-21)

(20) And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me." (21) But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

-v20 Paul quotes Isaiah boldly saying that the Lord was found by those who did not seek Him and revealed to those who did not ask for Him.

-v21 But concerning Israel he says how that all day long, the Lord had held out His hands to a disobedient and obstinate people to no avail.

- In other words, Israel rejected God's held out hand with the gospel of salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ Who was their Messiah.

- Here's a question, how many of you came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at a time when you weren't really seeking or even asking?

- That's what Paul is saying here concerning the Gentiles, in that, instead of them seeking and finding the Lord, He sought and found them.

- I'll close with one last question, could it be that God is reaching out to you, in His seeking of you? Will He be met with your obstinacy?